

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

Protecting the Family

...Improving the Practice

Michigan Chapter

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December 15, 2011

Corbin R. Davis, Clerk
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

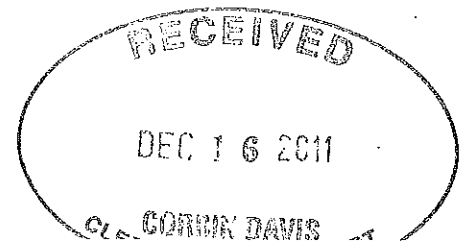
Re: AM 2010-22 and MRPC 7.3

Dear Mr. Davis:

The American Academy of Matrimonial Layers - Michigan Chapter ("AAML") supports AM 2010-22 amending MRPC 7.3. The proposed Court Rule Amendment is needed to restrict the solicitation of a party to a divorce case by an attorney targeting that party prior to service or 14 days, whichever occurs first.

This proposed Amendment to Rule 7.3 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct is needed in our state, to try and stop the practice of certain attorneys contacting prospective clients prior to that person being served in a divorce matter in order to solicit that party as a client. This practice, referred to as "trolling", is dangerous and at a minimum, can be very disruptive and damaging, since the party being targeted may not know that the divorce action has been filed and is not yet subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. This advance notice may provide the opportunity to transfer assets, remove the children from the Court's jurisdiction, avoid process, and increase not only the potential economic harm to a party, but the risk of physical harm to the party or their children as well, especially if the case is a "high conflict" divorce case.

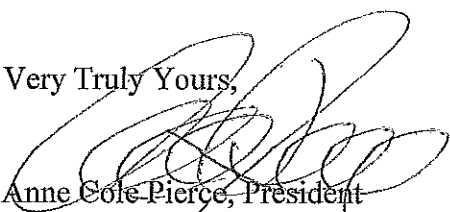
Connie Thacker, the Chair Person of the Family Law Council, Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, is also a Fellow of the AAML. She has provided a very detailed letter to you which addresses, in great detail, Justice Hathaway's requested address of Shapero v Kentucky.



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Bar Association, 496 US 466 (1988), and other constitutional issues. We agree with Ms. Thacker's analysis and join with the Family Law Council of the State Bar of Michigan in supporting approval of AM 210-22 amending MRPC 7.3.

Very Truly Yours,



Anne Cole Pierce, President
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
Michigan Chapter

ACP:nb
wpdocs/aaml/president/letter to C Davis